

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 23-25 were pending at the time of the Office Action.

No claims are canceled in this Response.

Claims 23 and 25 are amended in this Response.

Accordingly, claims 23-25 remain pending.

1-22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Currently Amended)** A method for a sender to guarantee an exactly once delivery of a message to a receiver, the method comprising:

associating an expiration time with the message;

associating an identifier with the message;

storing the message in association with the expiration time and with the identifier;

sending to the receiver the message in association with the expiration time and with the identifier; and

upon reaching the expiration time, if the message has not yet been deleted, then deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time associated with the message, the deleting being performed by a scavenger thread ~~of~~at the sender.

1           24.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 23 further comprising:  
2           receiving from the receiver an acknowledgement of receipt of the message;  
3           and  
4           deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time  
5           associated with the message.

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7           25.   **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable medium having  
8           instructions for performing a method for a sender to guarantee an exactly once  
9           delivery of a message to a receiver, the method comprising:

10           associating an expiration time with the message;  
11           associating an identifier with the message;  
12           storing the message in association with the expiration time and with the  
13           identifier;

14           sending to the receiver the message in association with the expiration time  
15           and with the identifier; and

16           upon reaching the expiration time, if the message has not yet been deleted,  
17           then deleting the message along with the identifier and the expiration time  
18           associated with the message, the deleting being performed by a scavenger thread  
19           of ~~at~~ the sender.

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21           26-28. **(Canceled)**  
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